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Office of University
Communications

August 23, 2016

GWU Alum and Trustee, Business Leader & State Official to Provide Leadership

BOILING SPRINGS, NC – Gardner-Webb University announced today that Neal Alexander was named as the interim dean for the Godbold School of Business. Alexander, who has a long history with the University, will take on the role beginning Sept. 19.

Alexander announced earlier today that he was leaving his current position with the State of North Carolina as the Director of Human Resources, a post he has held since 2013. Prior to that, Alexander worked with Duke Energy for over four decades, including nearly 15 years as a vice president. He graduated from Gardner-Webb in 1984, and has served on the University's Board of Trustees throughout the years, including multiple terms as board chair. Alexander was named GWU Alumnus of the Year in 2002, and received an honorary doctorate from Gardner-Webb in 2015.

Gardner-Webb President Dr. Frank Bonner said that Alexander offers tremendous value and a proven record of leadership. "Neal knows Gardner-Webb and its mission; he is committed to it. Neal provides a wealth of experience for our students, and his reputation for ethical business practices will serve as a true model and example for future business professionals."

While serving as the human resources director for North Carolina, Alexander worked to modernize the State Human Resources Act; establish safety, health and worker compensation accountability; and implement a new performance management system for the State. During his time at Duke Energy, Alexander was the chief advocate for thousands of employees through company mergers, organizational restructures, and realignments.

"Neal has unique insights into business distinctions within the public and private sectors, and he is recognized as a team-builder known for involving others in strategic planning. Gardner-Webb is fortunate to have Neal serve as interim dean," added Bonner.

A native of Walhalla, S.C., Alexander was in the South Carolina National Guard for six years, and has embraced leadership roles in First Baptist Church, Lincolnton, N.C., as a Sunday school teacher, deacon and moderator.

The search for a permanent dean for the Godbold School of Business will continue.

Located in Boiling Springs, N.C., Gardner-Webb University's purpose is to advance the Kingdom of God through Christian higher education by preparing graduates for professional and personal success, instilling in them a deep commitment to service and leadership, and equipping them for well-rounded lives of lasting impact, Pro Deo et Humanitate (For God and Humanity).